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### TO THE PEOPLE OF MARSEILLES 1720 YEAR OF THE PLAGUE

You will say that I betrayed the living. Because I lie

in a field outside the city. I am not responsible for leaving, I am responsible for laughing.

The crows are here too. Smaller ones.

They circle above

me screaming. They taunt me in human voices. My presence here or my limpness disturbs them. I would like to move.

But the wind is not so strong as before in Marseilles.

it rescued me from the huge wingless blackbirds.

They bent over me to bite with their stuffed beaks. To drag me along the street

with sudden anger.
But the wind pushed me carefully to the fields, without moving
I was brought to this place where crows have now abandoned me and strangely,
I am comforted by healthy laughter.



-Wayne Blankenship

## SPRING SONG OF CYMBA, THE CAT

Today I must plant black cats around Memorial Drive so will cower Jake by the logs and meet Joanna by the frog pond.

Today I must strut the meadow, 38 grabbing butterflies, and consternate birds.

I shall meow at the earth the way dogs bark at the moon: someone know that I am here.

Today I shall jostle jonquils on Memorial Drive as I push to battle, play,

food, home, and mate, insisting myself into the arms of the universe, to be counted as one of its children.

Dr. Betty S. Cox

### DRAPES

A silver thread drawn taut
to break.

Men cry out to halt
the strain
of a world now
tailor-made,
Ill-designed, misfitting cloak
covers shame
of the needle that pricks
the skin
giving God a false
last name.
The garment falls
apart.

#### NOTHING REALLY CHANGES

Ladies wear their bright clothes
On Easter Sunday still.
Black men still stagger up the streets
After the Saturday night of happiness.
Has anything really changed?

I grew older with great expectations, But people seem just as childish As my friends and I were when we were young. Children are born in the usual way Out of lust not love. Has anything really changed?

Rednecks let their hair grow And some even smoke dope. Speech and action are still the same. Has anything really changed?

People fall in love with life on their minds Holding hands and laughing at giants That walk across the silver screen That is really made of white paper. Has anything really changed?

There is the laugh of old men And the cries of virgins. Dreams are still in young minds, which the old let go many years before. Has anything really changed?

People are born, people die People laugh, people cry. Yesterday is gone Today lingers on And tomorrow never comes. Nothing really changes.

#### FREAK CHILD

Freak Child Little tormented face Eyes ... Blue as the bruises on your mother's heart Skin ... Dark as the shadow of your father's wife Freak Child Feature of an unreal race Alone, unwanted and unloved Freak Child Unpure, disgrace to your father's father pure clear white Outcase of your mother's black pride. Freak Child little freak child

-Debbie Pierson

#### THERE IS HOPE

A generation of fools we were But such dreams we fools had then. Do you remember those lofty dreams Of a new and better world? Fools but happy in our quest For change and how to live life. Those of older generations call us Insane, crazy, freaks, and fools. Ves, they called us these. So we call our children the same Because we are older now, But not really much wiser. For we lost our dreams when we awoke. Said to see us this way. Alas. I hope my children never lose their dreams In the push for life, But I know they will as most men do. There is hope.

#### LISTEN TO THE WIND

Listen to the wind child Don't it blow so lonely Ain't no warmth in that wind Ain't nothin' but cold that chill you right down to the bone O child I sure do wish I could make you safe from that wind Just keep you here with me Next to the fire warm and safe and happy Like that little pup there a chewin' on the cornbread I auess I'm just afraid that old wind gonna call you away from me But listen to the wind child

Don't it blow so lonely

-Suzette Collins Thompson

# (We were lost)

We were lost within ourselves, Fighting through the cold of winter. And it soon was ours to discover; As each day progressed, we grew: mentally, socially, and spiritually. Searching for our place in the circle, Seeing our reflection in a song. And he came to us and he spoke of love, And he brought us a dream of tomorrow. We at last walk towards a new horizon.

-Danny Cook

# (Icy hands clench the wheel)

Icy hands clench the wheel, Knuckles immersed in dust, palms in fear.

Scenery flows by untouched while eyes pause only to glance at billboards, The wheels hum their lethal lullabye as

we cruise into nowhere.

-Bobby Setzer

(Gliding, shifting feelings like fleeting sands

Gliding, shifting feelings like fleeting sands in an hourglass

small grains of love, struggling to be born, breathe the breath of life.

Seeking across silent reaches of worlds, To be touched. Not to fall

As the waterfalls which forever

Come crashing down. The gods have driven

my todays away.

I watch my world ending, dying. Reach back to yesterday.

Clouds roll back. The sun shines through, Haunting. What was is now. My future.

-Peggy Fox

### SAND DOLLARS

In a time of long past remembrance You and I walked on a shore To search for sand dollars We were in love then. I still have the sand dollars And none of them are broken

-Suzette Collins Thompson

#### I REMEMBER YOU

With each minute falling away, as the leaves on a tree fall, I think of--and remember you.

When the water flows down its endless path, as the memories drip from my eyes, I think of--and remember you.

When each letter is typed by a never-ending computer, as words are spoken that are never heard, I think of--and remember you.

With the falling star, landing on a beach of dreams as the thoughts of past years land on my mind,
I think of--and remember you.

When two innocent children share a simple smile, as time reflects our love and many hours, I think of--and remember you.

# THOUGHTS UPON YOUR QUESTION TO ME ABOUT DYING

Oh if I could say to you--honestly Yes--Live Don't you know that I would

But knowing
The ultimate torture of life
For you
I'd have to say

What beauty life
in tortured moments
that suspend all consciousness
and link together
only when joined
by the honey of
euphoric morphine

You see--I've seen you cradle yourself in your father's arms and in your husband's arms and take your babies to your breast And all who you embrace are gone now but not to you in your euphoria

And I'll be your grandmother and mother and friend of a long past childhood To please you To comfort you

But I don't know
If I can tell you
To hold on -- to live
Because I want you with me
One moment longer

So now I write you little eulogies In my mind

Because your thoughts are now Little eulogies
Remembrances small and many
Of times when things were good for you And there was
No pain
No sorrow

-Suzette Collins Thompson

(16)

If
a
love
does
not
vary,
beware
because
it
is
not
a
natural.

After all, my lady,

I

love

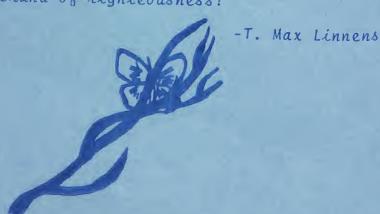
you

is a very sharp edge.

-Tom Hutchens

# EVERYMAN'S QUESTION

I stand in the shadows of the waning year and gaze across the multitude of days and nights that came to me on hurrying feet, arms piled high with beauty, dreams, and challenges, persistent peddlers with exotic merchandise, and I ask myself what wares I chose, what did I taste and feel and come to know? What delights did I distill for the mind's sure cud. did I stretch my mind before the pregnant words of Socrates, and Paul, and Homer, and did my soul grow strong in worship's splendor and in the sweat of service? What nectar did I suck and store from lovely flowering experiences. did the beauty of a sunset blood my soul, did I rise to the dare of any dream that floated past, a grey nymph on my stream? When I turn to the cupboard of my soul will I bask in the glow of a vintage year or stand accused. confronted by the empty shelves. In all my choosing and my seeking have I really sought the Kingdom and His brand of righteousness?



### WE ARE DIFFERENT, YOU AND I To W.B.Y. and M.G.

I am the poet, You, the politician

I see in grass the splendor of growing things life and love and union

You see a common ground for all mankind a carpet for all nations

-Gerrie Ward

#### GLIDERS

In the majesty of flight you and I soared high above reality Forgetting that below us lay the bonds of human suffering So high we were that time mattered not And like was only the wings that bore us on But being only mortal we were bound to earth Yet again we wished to savor the lovely nectar that we shared as we were borne on the winds of infinity

-Suzette Collins Thompson

("If you plant a seed of affection, water it with)

"If you plant a seed of affection, water it with warmth and sincerity; it will blossom into a beautiful cluster of

beautiful cluster of Love ..."

-Fred Lacon Eisenhower III

### PSALMS 33 1/3

The Lord is my record player I shall not be silent. He makes me resound with sweet music. With Him in the center He allows my life to drop Onto the turntable of His will. He sets into motion the needle of time And plays me in the groove Of fullest stereo. Though I control my modulation He rejects my warpedness And blends the balance Of my extremes. Songs have come And have gone --And only He knows How many melodies are left. But when my time has come To be placed on the stack Of those once enjoyed I shall not be stilled-For I am released under His label And my flip side shall endure forever.

## LINES WRITTEN TO ACCOMPANY A GIFT OF PERFUME

Long after this bottle lies empty and forgotten. And I...
It's fragrant ghost will stalk in the night (Springing at me from behind old memories of how It rose warm and ardorous from your breasts) Feigning your essence on every breeze, Haunting me with the love I refused, Leaving me breathless and alone Running wildly Seeking your shadow in the dark.

-Victor Bradford

### A SUMMER PLACE

Gone are the dwellers, south, that flourished here at warmer times, the chill has driven them away, a neighbor strips the old house bare, the peeling paint raining down is quickly whisked away, barren 'til a warmer day, awaiting a coat of green.

-T.F. Philbeck



#### BRIEF OPENINGS

Eyes are often windows into the soul through which one may glimpse the sadness and joy and struggles beyond when the intensity of the experience burns opaqueness away.

And when that moment comes for you, hurry through that open door and taste the fragrant oneness with that forced-open soul in that rare and fleeting moment of whole-hearted yearning, and feel the fears, the love, the hope splash upon your own unprotected soul-shore, for swift the moment passes, and you must stand apart again.

But in that one long moment of soul-closeness you may help shore up a sagging soul to stand tall again in the crucible fire where dross is burned away.

-T. Max Linnens

If I were fortunate enough to have a conversation with Him I'd probably ask why someone decided to save my soul at age ten and almost drown me in the baptismal pool before I really knew who He was and then I'd probably ask all about poverty and disease and prejudice and hatred and war

and why
He lets them exist
and then
I'd probably ask Him
to describe Hell (if He doesn't mind)
since so many of my fellowmen
have told me to go there
and then
He'd probably ask me why
since I obviously talk so much
He hasn't heard from me before

-Suzette Collins Thompson



A dirty straw-head man stumbled in and stood next to me on the back row while they sung the last verse over and over he grinned at me and coughed

and we heard the water coming they could have held on to each other but their hands pointed up to the sky so it washed them clean away

a straw-head man and me
we saw wet clothes hang on
like skinour eyes
burned when the little ones went under
and he says
Jesus what's got into them

the water flowed over our shoes he looked down and shivered

(Author's note: Although this poem is a commentar course, intended as an expression of the author's and in the sacred ordinance of baptism.)



he got choked on something then kind of sudden the straw-head man says Save me! and I jumped

he just threw up his hands and yelled SAVE . . . ME!

and Jesus you did too
took him right under brought him back up
but he was still yelling . .
and I was yelling
and they says
Jesus's what's got into them
that's all
that's all
that's all . . .

so they turned out the lights and left me and a straw-head man to tread water for a while

-Wayne Blankenship

ntary on certain aspects of religiosity, it is, of r's strong belief in the teachings of Christianity

### MOBIUS

I want to Stalk a lion and Shoot rapids in a canoe and Save a life and Affect all mankind But words are only parts of desires And desires implement themselves in dreams And dreamers are always poor But not in spirit I want to Stalk a lion

-Suzette Collins Thompson



## STAGNANT HAUNTS RESPOKEN

Throwing back the covers of his bed and finding a small balloon resting on the pillow, as if it had once lived in Goliath's pocket, reminded the writer of how his wife had felt like a balloon that had been blown up and had the air let out of it twenty-five times the night before her death in the Hindenburg crash.

-Tommy Swinney

### WELFARE

Finished, full, and fat -- the fox.
Looking, lean, and lithe -- his brother.
Humanitarian fox, guilty yet full
Shoved the scraps and brushed his hands.
From not enough scraps and too much pride
The brother died.
"Ungrateful," sputtered the fox,
Finished, full, and fat.

-Ginger Wright

## MOON/CHILD

He appeared----First
peeping from among the trees
then rose and shone the light
of his full army
conqueror of the land, the sea,
the air---He shone
and reigned over a
quieted populace
Then with the advent of
the sun---he surrendered
his captives
to a more brillant
lord

-Gerrie Ward

(Smoke)

Smoke
Twisting, curling, hide and seek among branches,
essence of charred ruins, ghosts of ancient oaks, legitimate sky-writing, knowing no form or bounds except to the eye.

-T.F. Philbeck

### THE COMPROMISE

Ice on a hot sidewalk Sweating berg of glaring crystals Frosty teardrops kissed by the sun Reduced to a lukewarm pool.

-Ginger Wright

THE CHAPTER B4 THE ONE IN WHICH
OUR HERO HAS HIS MORNING COFFEE

The last morning there
I pulled myself out
from between
the sheets
like a great unveiling.
(A victim of reflex.) Waking up,
I dress and walk
down to the beach

to say
goodbye to the last Friend
I had
down there.
Waving goodbye, I am surprised
to see that
it waves back

it waves back.

it waves back

Manuscott minagous successaria dinairi manuscanta de sotta de contrata de cont

-Ginger Wright

#### TO DEATH

While sleep o'er hangs this frail encasement of sublimity called soul I call on thee to come sweet death Release me from life's hold Let me not taste thy bitter fruit in time of psyche waking Yet lo I lay my wretched form Before thee for the taking To suffer not I know sweet death I must so call on thee Yet though I fear And know thee near Take me not while I see Let sleep encompass thus my frame And take me then in your sweet name

-Suzette Collins Thompson

## (Death)

Peath
You are gradually
coming to meet me.
I feel You in my breast;
I hear You in the hushed quietness
of the gentle breeze.
I see You in the falling leaves;
I smell You after the rain has come;
And I taste You with each passing breath.
And I love You.
But I don't want to die,
not yet.

9/17

Patient Fred Smith stood at attention facing Video Monitor #7, Hall Station. He pressed the address button once and waited. A voice spoke from inside the wall. "Yes, Honor Patient Smith. Speak."

"Sir, I have earned 400 positive points as is required for 15 minutes of ground privileges," he said, looking directly at the lens of the camera. "May I have per-

mission to leave the ward?"

"Please state the duties you have per-

formed," said the voice in the wall.
"I have scrubbed the washroom and cleaned the baseboards in the hall." reported

Patient Smith.

"Video Monitor #6. Washroom Station, indicated that at 4:17 P.M., you put Ajax on the tile. While rinsing at 4:21 P.M., you missed the 4th tile up and. 3rd tile to the right on the left wall. Return and rinse this tile; then you may have 10 minutes."

"Ten minutes, sir? But I requested permission for 15," responded Patient Smith.

"You are being penalized 100 points of accumulated positives for 'Not obeying directions. Your directions were to scrub and rinse the entire wash room area. You did not do so as you missed one tile. You are also being penalized an additional 100 points for 'Arguing.' Now you may have only 5 minutes." said the invisible man behind the wall in monotone.

"Yes, sir," said Smith.

A short time later he was ready to leave the ward for the break. As he punched his privilege card into the wall clock that

opened the locked door, the digits read in bright green letters:

TIME: 4:31 P.M. + 5 MINUTES = 4:36 P.M.

That meant that he would have to return to the ward before 4:36. Otherwise, he would be charged 60 points for each minute late and have to drink Sustagen (something like gruel)

instead of eating his dinner.

As the door opened to let him out, he could hear the Master Monitor's voice. "Video Monitor #14, Bunk Station, observing Patient Claude Miller picking right nostril with index finger of left hand. You are penalized 40 points for 'Dirty Hygiene.'"

9/18

"Master Monitor, Economy Unit, reporting for Staff conference, 8:59 A.M.," announced the intercom in the wall of the central conference room.

"Look here, Dr. Cyclops," said Dr. Green as he positioned his cigar and glared at Video Monitor #1, Conference Room Station,

"this isn't an army camp."

"You are penalized 100 points for 'Sar-casm--Subheading of Name-Calling,'" said the machine. "Pay five dollars before you leave, or your privilege card will not unlock the door."

"I heard you, robot," and he turned to the grinning doctor next to him. "It's not funny, Jim. That confounded monster is following me everywhere. If I so much as sneeze, I hear a voice in a wall telling me I didn't cover my mouth. This year alone I have paid that Economy Unit more money in fines than I have ever had to pay in taxes! We wanted a consistent program that would pay for itself, and we certainly do have that. But this has got to go!"

"200 negatives, Dr. Green, for 'Verbal Antagonism,'" said the wall. "In addition,

500 more for 'Verbal Threat.' Pay an

additional \$35, or your privilege card will

not open the door."

"Yes, sir," said Dr. Green, and he remained silent for the duration of the period, allowing the system in the wall to make its statistical reports, compute diagnoses, and program dispositions on 27 chronic patients. At 10:01 A.M., the meeting adjourned and the staff members lined up to punch their way out with their privilege cards. As the last card clicked in the clock and the automatic door locked shut, Green was still at the table counting the bills in his wallet. He finally stood up, walked to the wall, and pressed a button.

"Yes, Dr. Green," said the voice.

"Sir, I have only \$37 in cash, and you will not take credit cards. May I leave the room now and go get the rest of the money? I'll pay you an extra \$10," said the humbled

Dr. Green.

"Permission denied," said the machine.
"You are penalized an additional 100 points for 'Attempting to Bribe Master Monitor.'
You must perform 4 cleaning duties before you may be allowed to leave the room. You may begin by cleaning the baseboards. You will be given Sustagen for your lunch."

"Yes, sir," said the man with only \$37 in his wallet, and he picked up a rag and a

bucket of water.

-Jane Best

### MY FIRST LOVE POEM

I've always said that
I didn't believe in Love

And Love couldn't Happen to me
And by golly I was right
Because at that moment

When Love should have Happened
While we sat in an
over-crowded, over-darkened, over-heated

And you made Love-like sounds
I felt my pride bristle
And my soul rebel

And I stopped Love stone cold by saying

Blue. Really. They're Blue.

-Gerrie Ward

(Loving)

L oving In Full E arnest

-Sue Poper

Clear the blue eyes Looked out upon the crowd Seeing the seethers who looked through red-veined conveyers Not really hearing The truth Of his much-empassioned song

Oh children Fish in a darkened bowl Look out on a world of truth Life is more than the tides That wash on the sides Of your murky microcosm

I'm afraid you'll misunderstand I'm afraid you'll misunderstand

So I'll just stand here Dressed in a uniform of complacency And I'll sing to you Yes I'll serenade you And pick on my guitar And yes oh yes I will give you something To writhe to To rave about To scream to me More--More

Hoping that sometime Some one of you Will look at me Clear-eyed And see But till that time Let's get it on "And now brothers, I'm gonna do this one last song for you" "Oh mama, can this really be the end Am I stuck inside a mobile With the Memphis blues again"

### CONTINUOUS POEM NO. 34

I like to bury myself
Under half-ghosts of sheets
and remember
that it is dark.
Always ... the thoughts
and memories of her unlock
my back door for a visit while
i am just settling down for
a dinner of sleep.
["Strange. While half
of the world is trying to say 'goo
night

America,'
i lie awake trying to wish only you a goodnight.")
In closing I'll say,
you are my favorite lullaby.

I sing you often.

-Tommy Swinney

#### THE POSTMAN

Waiting at a window, gazing,
for a letter, out of fear
never going to check the boxes,
or finding the postcard waiting there,
left before I started watching.

-T.F. Philbeck

#### DAWN

At the break
of dawn
the last of the moon
touches each leaf
And in the midst
of laughter
and warm-winded sadness
I can see desire

-Debbie Pierson

## (Dusk)

Placid, ill-lighted
noncommitment.

God's only off-color joke,
a sage old gray-haired
neither, without beginning,
end, a period of wasted
subtieties, designed to give
death some much-needed sleep.

-T.F. Philbeck

## I USED TO PLAY HER GUITAR

I used to write songs for her And she used to sing them in the night While I played her quitar. We always said we'd live in Colorado High on a mountain top Where the snow is cold and deep, The sands of time draw us apart She went her way and I went mine. I often think of her, As I daydream here in Colorado. I still write songs for her, But she doesn't sing them now And I quess she never will again. You know I still have her guitar And I often play it when I'm alone. I hope that she'll come back to me So she'll sing my songs And I'll play her guitar.

- Jim Hance

## (Violence)

Violence the end product of conflict, of trauma Results in the sadistic Depressive life That becomes a grey spider Gnawing and shredding a waterbug Trapped by a multitude of string.

-Mary Ann Farrell

When my Papa

lay cold and still

at the other side

of the room

surrounded by pink and yellow

He spoke to me
of springtime

and sowing

of great clods of dirt

of great rough uneven ground

He spoke to me And my Papa

lay cold and still

at the other side

of the room

surrounded by pink and yellow

-Gerrie Ward

(Sitting mournfully)

Sitting mournfully alone on the cold wet, brick steps

He reflects.
Unashamed of the sorrow
He exposes the grief
That grips his heart.

He calls out a name -- Again and again.

A deathly silence!
No one answers his anguished cries.
And alone in the silence around him
And the emptiness within he weeps.

-Russ Anderson

## LOVE IS A LOST STONY EVENING

Love is a lost stony evening with a prelude in whipped cream and wine.

Seven chorus girls swirl by unnoticed. Wasted. Thrown away in time by memories that hold a tear and a smile in the same moment.

The only sounds of the night that matter

are:

11 sigh

2) breathing

3) "stay longer."

Not the drone

of the fluorescent death lamp, horns piercing the silence of darkness, or the moon song dogs sing

-Tommy Swinney



## DAWN'S HOPE WILL COME

I woke in the still
night, alone,
and rose to walk
barefoot through the
dewy grass
and down the road
made white
by the light of a
high, pale moon,
over the hill and
down to the beach
where I sat and wept

for the waves that could find no rest-the waves that beat upon the shore,
and the waves of grief within
that swelled and pounded on the shore of my
soul.

then receded in sobbing soft, only to mount and pound again.

White gull wings swept the dark away, and the sun rose up from a watery grave, then the prophet's promise came alive and etched its words in a soul sunrise: "The sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in his wings." And I beheld a glittering path stretch across the sea to my shore, a bright, bold road toward horizons far, and hope made bright a kindred path in the gloom of my grief within.

-T. Max Linnens

Term Paper Loving Daughter, Freshman Freshman Rushed In Died: May 15,1974 8:00 Am Born: May 14, 1974 She was truly a scholarly drudge So filled with heavenly fudge.



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